



Local Knowledge



Regional Strength



National Security

NorthWest Warning, Alert and Response Network ([NWWARN](#))

The NorthWest Warning, Alert & Response Network (NWWARN), is a pilot project of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Information Sharing Network Program (DHS INFO). NWWARN is a collaborative effort between government and private sector partners within Washington State with a goal to maximize real-time sharing of situational information without delay and provide immediate distribution of that information to those in the field who need to act on it. DHS INFO uses readily available communication methods to rapidly disseminate actionable information to our members.

NWWARN is a team of professionals from a broad cross section of government entities and private sector businesses and associations, to include the economically vital Agriculture and Food Safety sectors. We have discovered through this collaboration the interdependencies we all share and how we must communicate to reduce those vulnerabilities. Together, we have defined what information should be shared and the methodology to make it happen.

The events of September 11, 2001 forever altered the way Americans view potential threats to our communities. Homeland security is no longer solely law enforcement's responsibility. It necessitates a collaborative effort among citizens, corporations, and the government. NWWARN is an important tool for those involved in protecting the region's citizens and critical infrastructure.

The FBI is working with DHS to protect our nation's citizens and critical infrastructure. The 'FBI Tips' program provides citizens with a quick and convenient way to report suspicious activity. Simply click on 'Submit a Tip' next to the FBI Shield and you can submit your information directly to the FBI and DHS.

How to Become a [NWWARN](#) Member

Enrollment Requirements

NWWARN Full Member:

- Be a key manager, security professional, or subject matter expert, or decision maker who normally responds to emergency situations for their company or agency.
- Be an experienced person who can understand how different kinds of information and warnings might impact all the parts of their company/agency, its services and functions and the community at large.
- Have a good understanding of the issues, challenges and needs of their company/agency's functions, employees, and customers before, during and after terrorist attacks or other man-made or natural disasters.
- Have a good understanding of their company/agency's interdependencies with other public and private sectors.
- Have a pre-designated role in their company/agency's response and recovery plans.
- Be on call for emergencies that impact their company/agency, and are backed up by other

Users within their company/agency.

- Have their own contact / notification trees to share selected communications, or information from these messages, received from their Gatekeeper or directly from the NWWARN.
- Will maintain appropriate confidentiality level of messages received. Will distribute these messages, or information from these messages, to internal and external contacts accordingly.
- Can make decisions or go directly to a person who can make appropriate decisions.
- Can commit resources or go directly to the person who can commit resources.
- Will support NWWARN's philosophy of protecting the region's population and critical infrastructure.
- To become a member, or for more information on NWWARN go to <https://www.nwwarn.gov/forms/enrollrequirements.php> or <https://www.nwwarn.gov/index.php>
- Also you may contact Ken Parrish the Agriculture Critical Infrastructure NWWARN Gatekeeper at:

Ken L. Parrish
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Homeland Security Coordinator
Office: (360) 725-5509
Cell: (360)480-5291
Fax: (360) 902-2092
Email: kparrish@agr.wa.gov

NWWARN Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of NWWARN?

NWWARN is a group of professionals dedicated to the protection of the region's population and critical infrastructure. Its purpose is to maximize real-time sharing of situational information without delay and provides immediate distribution of that information to those in the field who need to act on it. DHS INFO uses readily available communication methods to rapidly disseminate actionable information to our members.

How do I become a member?

You can start the application process by clicking on the 'Join the Northwest Warning, Alert and Response Network' link. You will be taken to a screen that describes enrollment membership. If you believe you meet the requirements, complete the membership application. A "Gatekeeper" for your program or sector who will decide to approve you as a member will review your application. If approved, you will be required to accept the NWWARN Terms of Use.

What are the advantages to membership?

Membership allows you to receive alerts and warnings from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It also allows members to communicate with other professionals in their program/sector and send and receive information to other programs/sectors.

What will be my responsibility as a member?

Member responsibilities are defined as part of the membership Enrollment Requirements.

Who is NWWARN?

NWWARN is a group of professionals from government and the private sector dedicated to protecting the region's population and critical infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest. The pilot phase of NWWARN will run from May – August 2004 and will include basically the state of Washington.

Who manages the site?

Officials from the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and various state and local agencies manage the site.

What if I do not have a cell phone/pager will I still be notified?

Members who do not have a cell phone or pager will be notified by email. NWWARN has the capability of sending information by fax.

Will I receive messages at all hours of the night?

In the case of an emergency, NWWARN site managers can send information any time, day or night to the 24 hour telephone number provided by the member.

How will I know if I have been approved as a member?

You will receive an email notifying you that you have been approved as a member.

As a member will I be required to have a background check?

No. However, unauthorized access and use of the site are violations of U.S. Law and policy, and may result in criminal or administrative penalties. Users shall not access other users' files or system files without proper authority. Absence of access controls is not authorization for access. For further information, please refer to the NWWARN TERMS OF USE.

Will I be able to join any program or sector?

No. Members are expected to join the program or sector in which they are employed. Members have the opportunity to select up to two additional programs or sectors they feel are important to their profession.

Does it cost money to join?

No. The Department of Homeland Security believes the sharing of relevant information is vital to the protection of the region and should bear no cost to those who need it.

Who sponsors NWWARN?

The Department of Homeland Security, the FBI, the Washington State Military Department and various private sector companies sponsor NWWARN. It is a pilot project of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Information Sharing Network Program (DHS INFO).

Will I be able to pass information freely between my sector?

Yes. NWWARN has been designed specifically so members can communicate with other members in their program/sector.

Why do I have to agree to the terms?

By agreeing to the NWWARN TERMS OF USE, you have assured NWWARN administrators and other members that you, like them, are someone who is a decision maker in your agency or company and have an understanding of your agency's or company's interdependency with other entities.

If I do not agree to the terms, may I still be a member?

If you do not become a member, you can still be a part of the Citizen Action Program. This will allow you to receive periodic public releases of information from the Department of Homeland Security and

the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

What is the FBI Tips program?

The 'FBI Tips' program provides citizens with a quick and convenient way to report suspicious activity. Simply click on 'Submit a Tip' next to the FBI Shield on the NWWARN Homepage and you can submit your information directly to the FBI and DHS.

If I have a real emergency how should I use the NWWARN System?

The NWWARN system is designed to supplement the 911 System for the sharing of specific threat related information – to both public and private critical infrastructures and law enforcement agencies. If you are in need of emergency assistance, please dial 911.

Can anybody join NWWARN?

No. NWWARN membership is reserved for those professionals involved in the protection of the region's population and critical infrastructure. Review the Enrollment Requirements to determine if you should join NWWARN. However, the public pages are open to the public.

How do I know what program or sector I belong in?

You should select the program or sector that best describes your profession. For example, if you are employed by a food safety, food processing, shipping, or an organization that represents or has it's basis in the Agriculture sector, and you are an individual involved in the emergency response, protection and security of its assets, you should subscribe under the "**Critical Infrastructure Program**", and select "**Agriculture & Food**" as your primary infrastructure selection. NWWARN offers you the opportunity to choose up to two other program groups or sectors in which you can receive and share information.

Why should I join?

Members have the unique opportunity to become part of a network that is dedicated to protecting the region's population and critical infrastructure through the sharing of alerts, warnings, and other information. Members will receive information directly from the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Plus, it's free.

- To become a member, or for more information on [NWWARN](https://www.nwwarn.gov) go to <https://www.nwwarn.gov/forms/enrollrequirements.php> or <https://www.nwwarn.gov/index.php>
- Also you may contact Ken Parrish the Agriculture Critical Infrastructure NWWARN Gatekeeper at:

Ken L. Parrish
Washington State Department of Agriculture
Homeland Security Coordinator
Office: (360) 725-5509
Cell: (360)480-5291
Fax: (360) 902-2092
Email: kparrish@agr.wa.gov